

In the end, two outstanding Dragon Soldiers rose above all others. First-place was awarded to Staff Sergeant Francisco Cardenas, 22d Chemical Battalion, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, and Specialist Joseph Caouette, 83d Chemical Battalion, Fort Polk, Louisiana. The winners were presented the George L. Murray Leadership Award by Command Sergeant Major Patrick Alston, Regimental Command Sergeant Major, and Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray (Retired).

Command Sergeant Major Alston said that the competition, which has become an annual event that coincides with Regimental Week, would only improve with time. "Next year, we would like to see at least one Soldier from each Chemical battalion and company in the Army," Alston said. "We would also like to increase some of the tasks and make it more demanding." 🐉



Staff Sergeant Francisco Cardenas, Chemical Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and Specialist Joseph Caouette, Chemical Enlisted Soldier of the Year, receive their awards during the Green Dragon Ball.

Master Sergeant Baker is the Chemical School Operations Noncommissioned Officer. His past assignments include instructor for the Headquarters, Training Command; tactical noncommissioned officer for the Chemical Officer Basic Course; platoon sergeant for Chemical reconnaissance; and division Chemical noncommissioned officer for the 1st Infantry Division. Master Sergeant Baker is the author of Looking Out From Under the Hat.

Sibert Award Winners

The 2006 winners of the Sibert Award are the—

- Active Army: 95th Chemical Company (Heavy), Special Troops Battalion, Fort Richardson, Alaska.
- Reserve Component: 392d Chemical Company (Combat Support), 468th Chemical Battalion, 460th Chemical Brigade, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The companies were presented the awards at the Green Dragon Ball held at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in June. The Sibert Award provides recognition for excellence in the Chemical Corps and gives recognition to the best chemical company-size unit in the Active Army.

The award is named after Major General William L. Sibert—often referred to as the “Father of the Chemical Corps.” Major General Sibert, who was elected by General John J. Pershing to stand up the Chemical Warfare Service, guided the Corps through many of its earliest challenges.

Units compete for this highly regarded award based on the following:

- Mission.
- Individual and collective training statistics.
 - Common task testing.
 - Weapons qualification.
 - Army physical fitness test scores.
 - Army Training and Evaluation Program (ARTEP) results.
 - External evaluation/Combat Training Center rotations or contingency missions.
- Overall maintenance status and performance-on-command inspections.
- Accident and award safety performance statistics.
- Overall organizational excellence (based on individual and unit awards).
- Participation in educational programs and community or humanitarian activities.
- Battle-focused future training initiatives.